

## Complete Streets—Integrating the Transportation System

Caltrans is taking the lead to transform the state highway system to meet the needs of all legal users. Deputy Directive-64-R1 signed in October 2008, calls for the incorporation of Complete Streets provisions into Caltrans guidance, manuals, training, and more.

The intent of this directive is to ensure that travelers of all ages and abilities can move safely and efficiently along and across a network of *complete streets*.



Image © 2009 Caltrans

A bicyclist gets ready to merge with motorized traffic. Complete street designs incorporate safety features for cyclists as well as pedestrians

A *Complete Street* is a transportation facility that is planned, designed, operated and maintained to provide safe mobility for all users including bicyclists, pedestrians, transit riders, and motorists appropriate to the function and context of the facility.

Complete Streets can contribute to a healthy and active lifestyle. By designing roadways with Complete Streets elements, such as raised medians and appropriate signal timing, users of all ages and abilities will be able to move more safely along and across roadways. And with improved travel safety, more will be likely to walk and bike.

Complete Streets also benefits the environment. Providing more travel options relieves some of the burden on overcrowded roadways. More trips made on bicycles or by foot can significantly reduce carbon dioxide emissions and congestion.

In February 2010 the Caltrans Complete Streets Implementation Action Plan was signed, paving the way for action throughout the department. This is another opportunity for Caltrans to demonstrate leadership and its continuous commitment to address the needs of all California travelers.



For additional information see:

[http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/ocp/complete\\_streets.html](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/ocp/complete_streets.html)